

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending in the application and have been subjected to restriction. Non-elected claims 1-9, 13, and 29-37 have been canceled. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of the non-elected claims in one or more divisional applications. Claim 10 has been revised to include the subject matter of allowed claim 13. Claims 20, 23, 25, and 27 also have been rewritten in independent form. The Action indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. No new matter is presented by the amendment. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request entry thereof, and reconsideration of claims 10-12, and 14-28 in view of the following remarks.

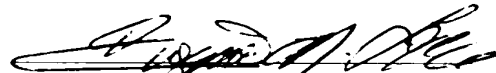
On pages 2-6 of the Action, claims 10-12, 14-19, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA) of this application in view of Imamura, *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,738,911 ("Imamura"), Shibuya, *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,338,868 ("Shibuya"), and Tanaka, *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,974,666 ("Tanaka"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 13 was not included in the rejection, and page 6 of the Action states that claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have rewritten claim 13 in independent form by including the subject matter recited therein in independent claim 10, thus rendering claim 10 allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection set forth in the Action.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that claims 10-12, and 14-28 are in condition for allowance, and solicit an early notice of allowance in this regard. Should there be any questions concerning this amendment, Examiner Nguyen is courteously invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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PETITION and

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.